

Abstract

A system, method and apparatus providing for the search, identification, retrieval and analysis of data contained in *World Wide Web* (WWW) and network pages and storage repositories. Mechanisms are provided to facilitate selection of such data as is required by a user, to report in a manner required by the user and to present the results in a plurality of ways. Also disclosed is a system, method to protect information retrieval from Information Servers such as those found on the world wide web (WWW). A method is described to analyze accesses to the information server for patterns indicating the type of system accessing the server. A method is described to format information such that it cannot be easily machine analyzed by such apparatus as lexical analysis and textual search methods. A method is described to include information into information server contents such that it would mislead and otherwise confuse non-human systems used to retrieve the data. Other methods describe access signature analysis and how this can be used to detect and optionally prevent or modify information requests.